

MODEL ANALYSES AND GUIDANCE (MAG) APPLICATION

MAG User's Manual (Documentation Version 3.1)

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Contents

[Introduction](#)

[MAG home page](#)

[Figure 1: MAG home page](#)

[Model Guidance Page:](#)

[Figure 2: Model Guidance page](#)

[Model Guidance Parameter Page:](#)

Model Guidance Parameter Page:

[Figure 3: Parameter page for model ='GFS' and region = 'Namer'](#)

[Figure 4: Parameter page with available forecast hours & loops \(once parameter is chosen\)](#)

[Figure 5: JavaScript Application to view the graphics in a loop](#)

[Figure 6: Graphics page for a selected forecast hour](#)

[Figure 7: Observations and Analyses Page](#)

Observations and Analysis page for UAIR

[Figure 8: Observations and Analyses page for UAIR](#)

UAIR parameter page:

[Figure 9: UAIR page for region 'Namer'](#)

[Figure 10: Upper Air graphics page](#)

[Figure 11: Obs/Analyses page for Skew-t plots](#)

Skew-T Parameter Page

[Figure 13: Skew-t plot](#)

[Figure 14: Skew-T graphics](#)

[Figure 15: Station table for Skew-T graphics](#)

[Figure 16: Observations and Analyses page for "RTMA"](#)

RTMA/RTMA-GUAM Parameter page

[Figure 17: RTMA page](#)

[Figure 18: RTMA graphics](#)

[Figure 19: Tropical Guidance page](#)

Tropical Guidance Parameter page:

[Figure 20: Tropical Guidance Parameter page](#)

[Figure 22: JavaScript animation page for Tropical Guidance parameter](#)

Introduction

The Model Analysis and Guidance website displays a graphical depiction of products available from the National Weather Service's (NWS) Numerical Weather Prediction computer models. The website offers a professional and interactive interface, which showcases the NWS observational database and suite of numerical model analysis and guidance. In an effort to respond to user needs, to protect life and property, and support the nation's growing need for environmental information; a streamlined graphical approach displaying products in making forecasts will serve not only NWS Offices but also the Private and Public Sectors.

The Model Analyses and Guidance (MAG) website is available at <http://mag.ncep.noaa.gov>

MAG home page

The MAG website's Home page presents the user with the choice of three categories:

- **Model Guidance:** Provides a path to view products created from the National Weather Service's (NWS) numerical model output including regional and global models.
- **Observations and Analyses :** Provides a path to view the Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA) products, Upper Air(UAIR) Height Plots, and Upper Air Sounding Plots (Skew T plots)
- **Tropical Guidance:** Provides a path to view products created by the National Weather Service's Tropical Cyclone models. These products are only available when tropical cyclones that meet stated criteria are active in the Atlantic or Pacific areas.

Site users can obtain a description for each category by hovering the mouse pointer over each selection. A text window appears further describing each category.

The world map graphic displays a rectangle around each geographic area selected in the Model Guidance and Observations and Analyses pages. When a user clicks on the map, at the home page, a text box appears alerting the user to "Select Model Guidance, Observations and Analyses, or Tropical Guidance".

Users can access the following information by clicking the links below the world map or expanding the Website Information menu at the top right of the main page:

- Upcoming Changes – A list of changes, improvements and fixes to the site. These are most often derived from requests and inquiries from our user community.
- Users Guide – This document.
- Frequently Asked Questions – A list of questions from our user community where issues are encountered that are outside the control of the web application programmer. These may be related to system configuration tips, or required software and browser plug-ins to quirks we have noted or that have been reported with a particular browser model or version.
- Product Description Document – A document describing the models themselves and the products, the combination of meteorological fields that comprise each product, and the geographic areas covered by each model.

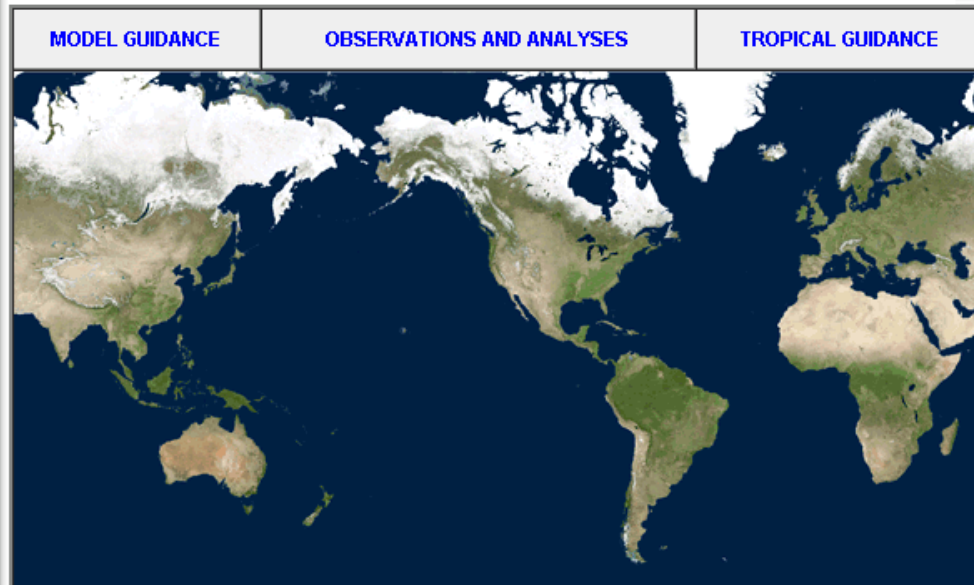
A schedule of proposed changes and the latest news are available by clicking the link: "Check here for the latest news" near the top of the page, below the page title.

Model Analyses and Guidance

[+ Website Information](#)

[Check here for the Latest News](#)

Select Model Guidance, Observations and Analyses, or Tropical Guidance



[Upcoming Changes](#) | [User's Guide](#) | [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Product Description Document](#)

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Figure 1: MAG home page

Model Guidance Page:

The user arrives on this page by clicking on the ‘Model Guidance’ category from the main index page. (See Figure 2)

- Select the model name of choice from the model list
 - Select region of choice from the region list
- Note: The application automatically highlights the regions that are available for a selected model in red. All other regions are un-selectable and gray.
- If the user selects a region first, then the models that are available for the selected region are highlighted in red while all other models are un-selectable and gray.
 - Click the button ‘Reset Selection’ to reset choices made in the Model Area or Model Type lists.
 - Click the ‘Back’ button to go back to the main page.
 - Click the ‘Home’ to return to the main page.
 - To get a brief description of any of the models/regions, hover over the mode/region names, and a tool tip will appear with a description.

After the user has made the selection for Model and Region, the Parameter page (see Figure 3) for the chosen model/region is displayed.

Back

Model Guidance

Home

Reset Selection(s)

Choose a Model Area or re-select a different Model Type

Model Area	NAMER	SAMER	AFRICA	NPAC	EPAC	WNATL
	ATLANTIC	POLAR	ATLPAC	EUS	WUS	ALASKA
	EUROPE	ASIA	SPAC			

Model Type	GFS	NAM	SREF	WW3	HRW-NMM-EUS	HRW-ARW-EUS
	GEFS-SPAG	NAM-HIRES	NAEFS	WW3-ENP	HRW-NMM-WUS	HRW-ARW-WUS
	GEFS-MNSPRD	RAP	POLAR	WW3-WNA	HRW-NMM-AK	HRW-ARW-AK

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Figure 2: Model Guidance page

Model Guidance Parameter Page:

The user is presented with the parameter page after the Model and Region are chosen from the Model Guidance page. In this section, the Parameter Page is explained after the user chooses a model (i.e. GFS) and region (i.e. Namer).

The Parameter Page presents the user with

- The parameter names available for a selected Model and Region.
- The available model cycles. Note: the cycles are displayed with the latest cycle as the default and is displayed on the right most cell and is highlighted in white
- The available forecast hours are displayed in the dropdown list (see Figure 5), the default is 'Loop All' of the available forecast hours (see Figure 4).

Model Guidance Parameter Page:

The user is presented with the parameter page after the Model and Region are chosen from the Model Guidance page.

The Parameter Page presents the user with

- The parameter names available for a selected Model and Region.
- The available model cycles. Note: the cycles are displayed with the latest cycle as the default and is displayed on the right most cell and is highlighted in white
- The available forecast hours and animations (loops) for days or over the entire forecast period once a parameter is selected.

[Back](#)
GFS
[Home](#)

North America - US, Canada, and northern Mexico

Available Model Cycles
(default is latest cycle)

Image Size
 Large (1280 x 1024) ☐
 Medium (1024 x 768) ☒
 Small (640 x 480) ☐

08/05/2013 00UTC		08/05/2013 06UTC		08/05/2013 12UTC		08/05/2013 18UTC	
PRECIP PARAMS	precip_p03	precip_p06	precip_p12	precip_p24	precip_p36	precip_p48	
	precip_p60	precip_ptot					
SFC-LAYER PARAMS	1000_500_thick	1000_850_thick	10m_wnd_precip	850_700_thick	850_temp_mslp_precip		
UPPER AIR PARAMS	200_wnd_ht	250_wnd_ht	300_wnd_ht	500_rh_ht	500_temp_ht	500_vort_ht	
	700_rh_ht	850_pw_ht	850_rh_ht	850_temp_ht	850vor_500ht_200wd		850_vort_ht
	925_temp_ht						
FOUR PANEL CHARTS	200_wnd_ht, 500_vort_ht, 1000_500_thick, 850_temp_ht			300_wnd_ht, 850_vort_ht, 700_rh_ht, 10m_wnd_precip			

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Figure 3: Parameter page for model = 'GFS' and region = 'Namer'

[Back](#)

GFS

North America - US, Canada, and northern Mexico

[Home](#)

Available Model Cycles

(default is latest cycle)

Image Size

Large (1280 x 1024) ☐Medium (1024 x 768) ☒Small (640 x 480) ☐

08/05/2013 00UTC		08/05/2013 06UTC		08/05/2013 12UTC		08/05/2013 18UTC			
PRECIP PARAMS	precip_p03	precip_p06	precip_p12	precip_p24	precip_p36	precip_p48			
	precip_p60	precip_ptot							
SFC-LAYER PARAMS	1000_500_thick	1000_850_thick	10m_wnd_precip	850_700_thick	850_temp_mslp_precip				
UPPER AIR PARAMS	200_wnd_ht	250_wnd_ht	300_wnd_ht	500_rh_ht	500_temp_ht	500_vort_ht			
	700_rh_ht	850_pw_ht	850_rh_ht	850_temp_ht	850vor_500ht_200wd	850_vort_ht			
	925_temp_ht								
FOUR PANEL CHARTS	200_wnd_ht, 500_vort_ht, 1000_500_thick, 850_temp_ht		300_wnd_ht, 850_vort_ht, 700_rh_ht, 10m_wnd_precip						
FORECAST HOURS	000								Loop All
	003	006	009	012	015	018	021	024	1 Day
	027	030	033	036	039	042	045	048	2 Day
	051	054	057	060	063	066	069	072	3 Day
	075	078	081	084	087	090	093	096	4 Day
	099	102	105	108	111	114	117	120	5 Day
	123	126	129	132	135	138	141	144	
	147	150	153	156	159	162	165	168	
	171	174	177	180	183	186	189	192	
	204	216	228	240	252	264	276	288	
	300	312	324	336	348	360	372	384	

(available forecast hours will have active links)

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Figure 4: Parameter page with available forecast hours & loops (once parameter is chosen)

To view the graphics for any parameter:

- Select the
 1. parameter name
 2. model cycle
 3. forecast hour or loop option

User selection is highlighted in red.

- Once all the above three selections have been made the page automatically redirects to the graphics display page. If the selection is 'Loop All' or "1/2/3/4/5 Day loop", then the user is presented with a JavaScript animation page that loops through all the images for all forecast hours as shown in Figure 6. If a distinct forecast hour is chosen, the user is shown a gif image as seen in Figure 5.

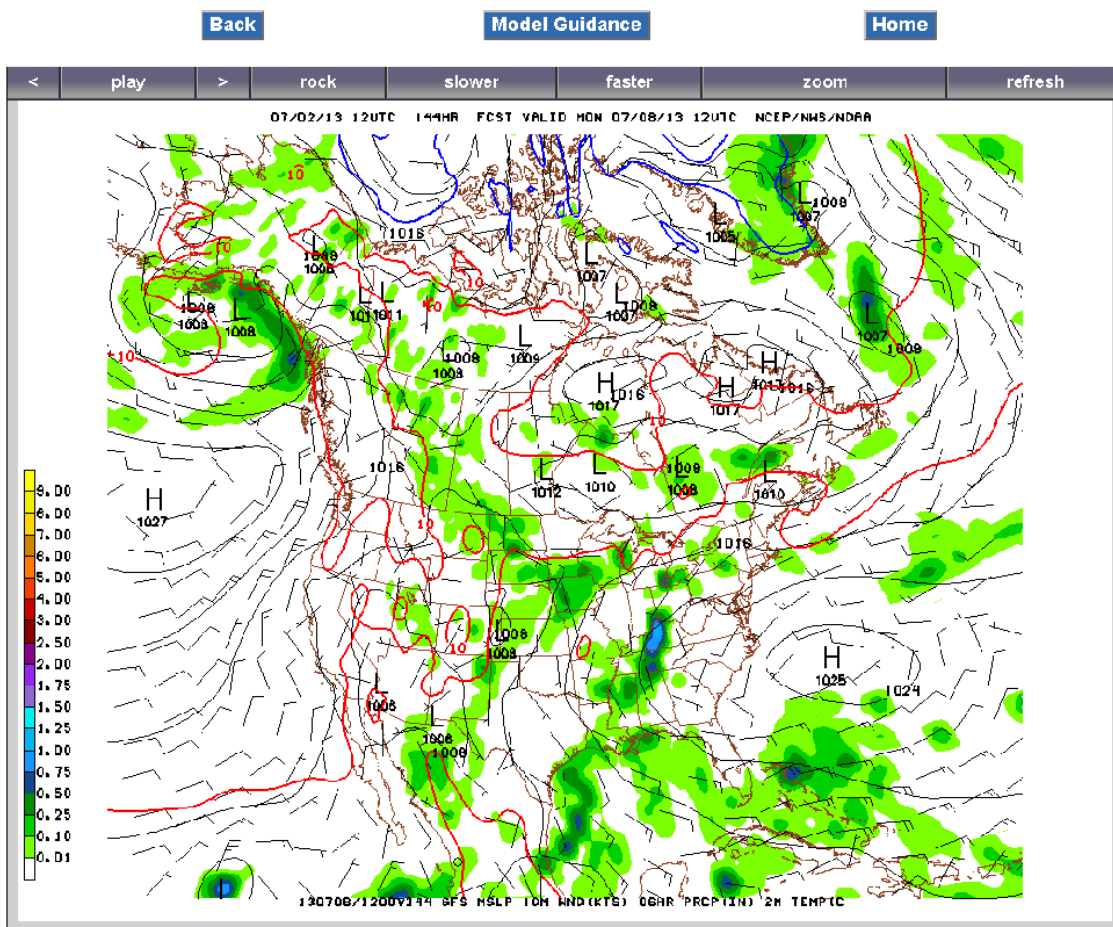


Figure 5: JavaScript Application to view the graphics in a loop

JSani, a JavaScript based animation application has replaced the Flash based application, and the earlier Java based application for displaying forecast hours from the models as a progressive series of images. The JSani application was built and is maintained by Bill Bellon of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Space Science & Engineering Center (SSEC).

More information about the software can be found at <http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/~billb/jsani>

[Back](#)

[Model Guidance](#)

[Home](#)

http://magtest.ncep.noaa.gov/data/gfs/06/gfs_namer_012_10m_wnd_precip.gif

[<< Previous](#)

[Zoom In](#) | [Normal](#) | [Zoom Out](#)

[Next >>](#)

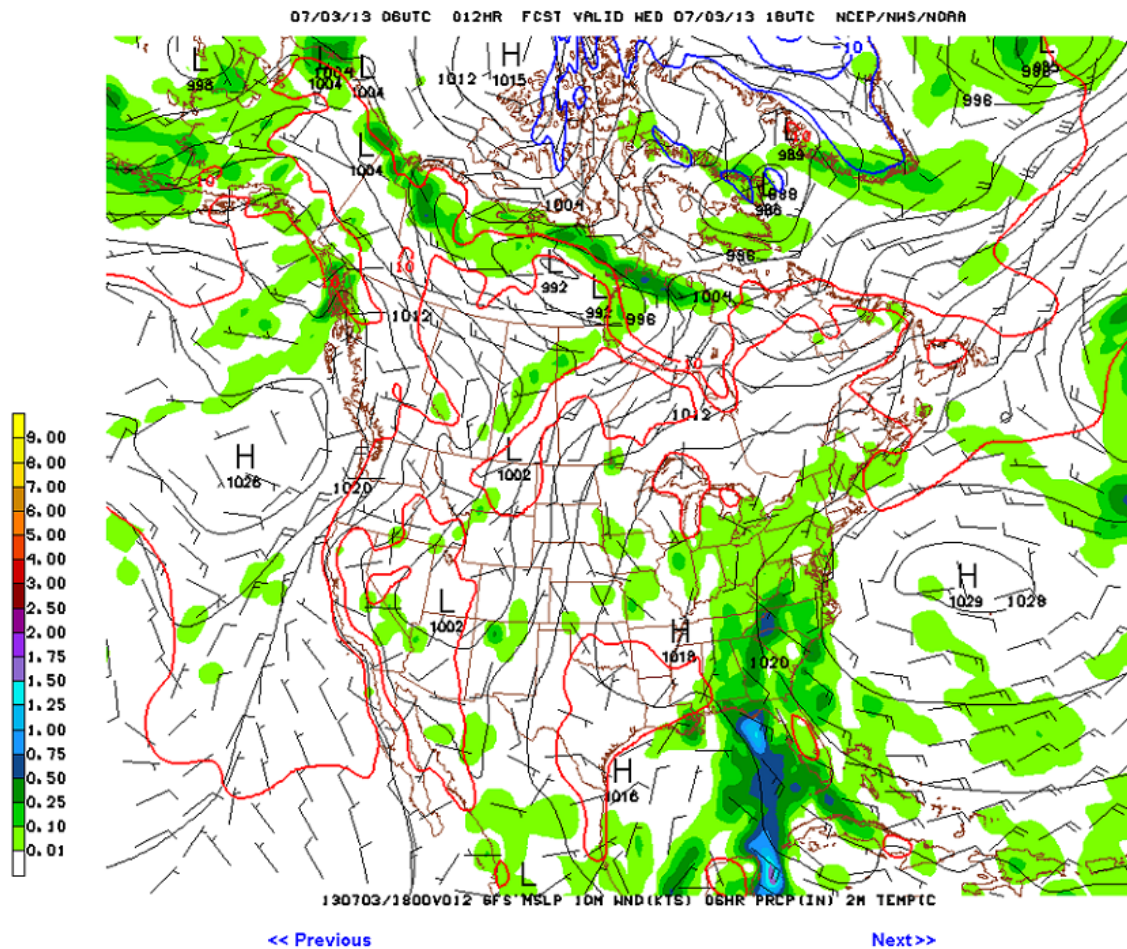


Figure 6: Graphics page for a selected forecast hour

The user can zoom-in/zoom-out or choose a Normal size of viewing the image by pointing to the “Zoom In | Normal | Zoom Out “ links, provided just above the image.

The static URL to view the image is provided just below the title of the page.

Observations and Analyses Page:

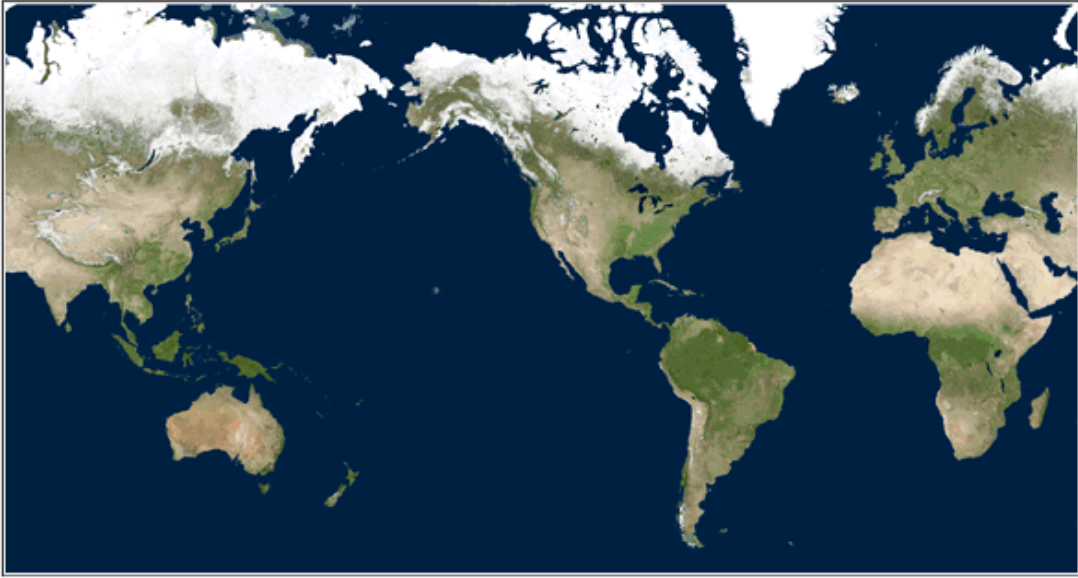
The user can choose the “Observations and Analyses” category from the MAG home page to get to the Observations and Analyses page

[Back](#)[Home](#)

Reset Selection(s)

To view images, select an Obs/Analysis Type and Obs/Analysis Area

Obs / Analysis Type	UAIR	SKEWT	RTMA	RTMA-GUAM
Obs / Analysis Area	NAMER	SAMER	AFRICA	NPAC
	CANADA	ALASKA	WNATL	SWREGION
	CA	NC_SC	CO	ND_SD
	MIDWEST	GULFCOAST	MIDATL	MI
	MT	NEWENG	OHVALLEY	TX
	PACNW	WI	GUAM	FL



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Figure 7: Observations and Analyses Page

This page (see Figure 7) provides the user with three types for Obs/Analyses :

- UAIR (Upper Air)
- SKEWT(Skew-T plots)
- RTMA(Real Time Mesoscale Analysis)

- RTMA-GUAM(Real Time Mesoscale Analysis for the Guam region)

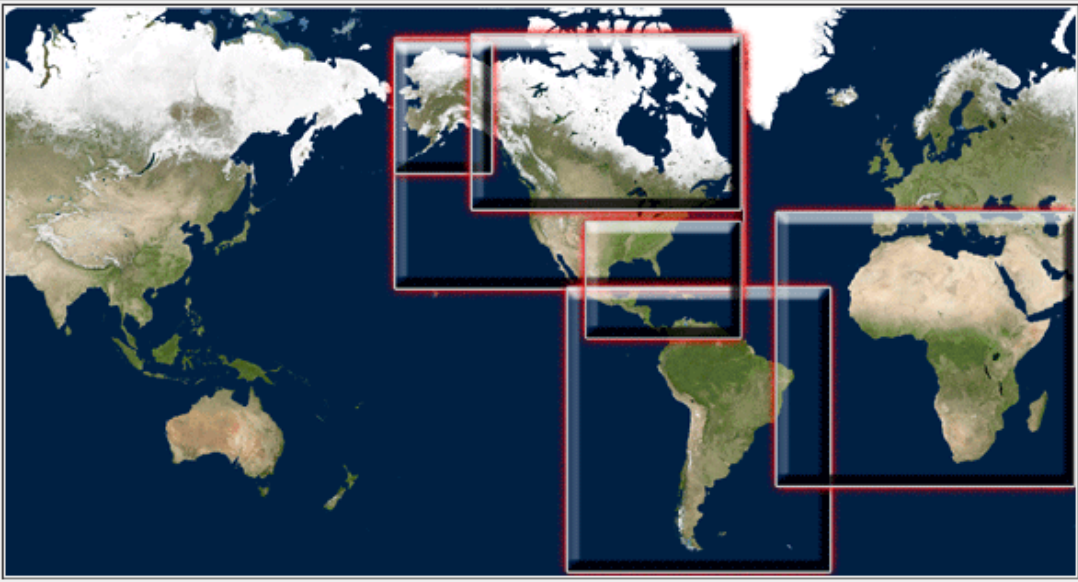
Observations and Analysis page for UAIR

When the user selects UAIR, the regions corresponding to Upper Air gets highlighted in red and the other regions are deselected and greyed out as shown in Figure 8.

[Back](#)
Observations and Analyses
[Home](#)

Choose an Obs/Analysis Area or re-select a different Obs/Analysis Type

Obs / Analysis Type	UAIR	SKEWT	RTMA	RTMA-GUAM
Obs / Analysis Area	NAMER	SAMER	AFRICA	NPAC
	CANADA	ALASKA	WHATL	SWREGION
	CA	NC_SC	CO	ND_SD
	MIDWEST	GULFCOAST	MIDATL	MI
	MT	NEWENG	OHVALLEY	TX
	PACNW	WI	GUAM	FL



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Figure 8: Observations and Analyses page for UAIR

To view the Upper Air Parameters, select a region of choice.

Note: The user can also choose a region first, and the corresponding Obs/Analysis Type is highlighted in red. The other types are “grayed out” / deselected.

UAIR parameter page:

In this section, the Upper Air parameter page is explained when the user selects North America (Namer) as region of interest (see Figure 10). The page presents all the available model cycles in one row. The next row presents the available mandatory levels in millibars.

[Back](#)


UAIR

[Home](#)

North America - US, Canada, and northern Mexico

Available Model Cycles
(default is latest cycle)

07/02/2013 12UTC	07/02/2013 18UTC	07/03/2013 00UTC	07/03/2013 06UTC								
LEVEL	1000	925	850	700	500	400	300	250	200	150	100



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Figure 9: UAIR page for region 'Namer'

- Select any 'Available Model Cycles'. Note: the default is always highlighted in red and is displayed in the right most cell.
- Select a mandatory level.
- The user is presented with the graphic similar to what is shown in Figure 10.

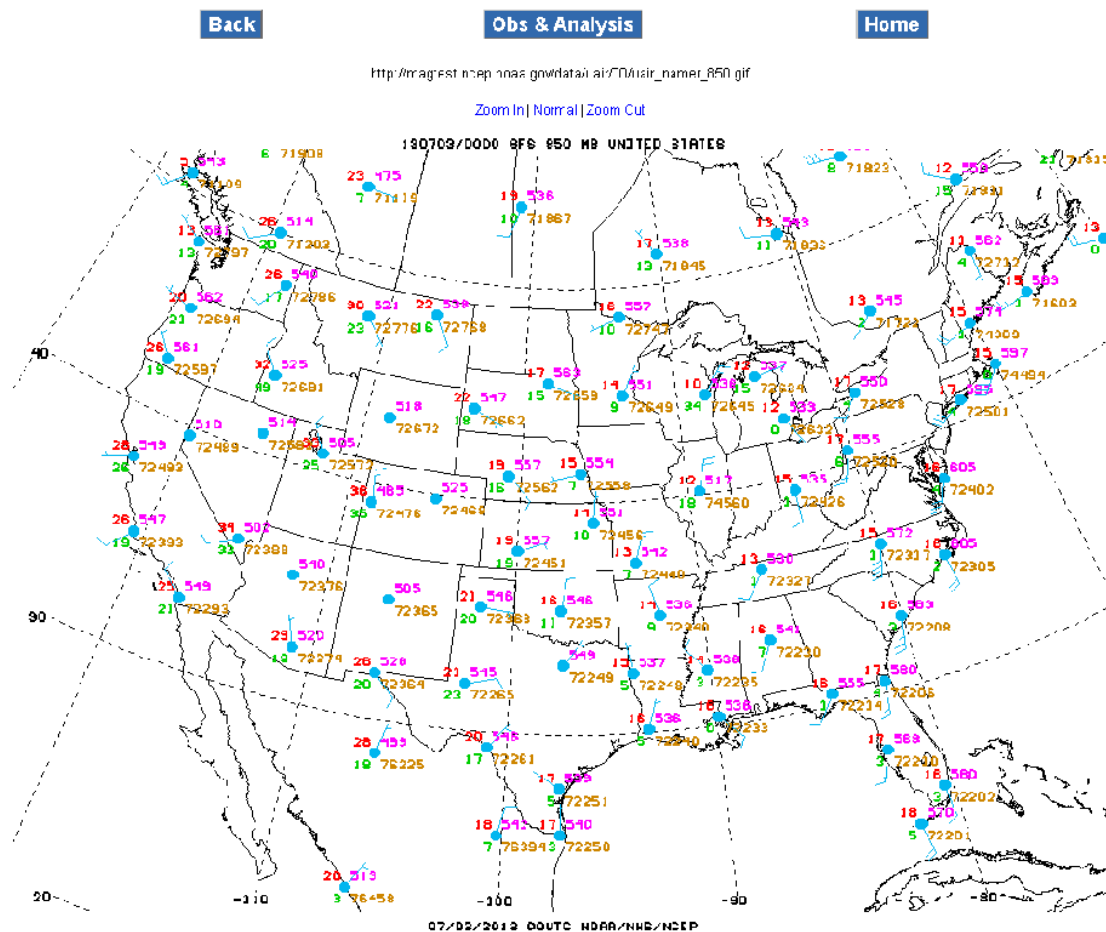


Figure 10: Upper Air graphics page

The user can zoom-in/zoom-out or choose a Normal size of viewing the image by pointing to the “Zoom In | Normal | Zoom Out “ links provided just above the image.

The static URL to view the image is provided just below the title of the page.

Observations and Analysis page for Skew-t Plots

This section describes the usage of the MAG application to view Skew-t plots.

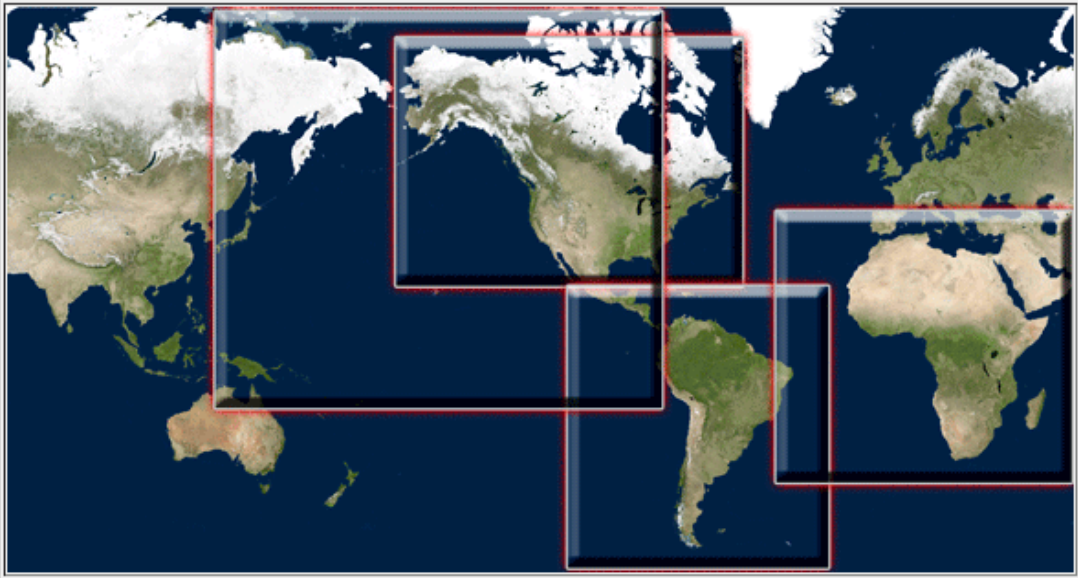
Select the Observations/Analyses Type “SKEWT” from the Observations and Analyses page.

[Back](#)[Home](#)

Reset Selection(s)

Choose an Obs/Analysis Area or re-select a different Obs/Analysis Type

Obs / Analysis Type	UAIR	SKEWT	RTMA	RTMA-GUAM
Obs / Analysis Area	HAMER	SAMER	AFRICA	NPAC
	CANADA	ALASKA	WNATL	SWREGION
	CA	NC_SC	CO	ND_SD
	MIDWEST	GULFCOAST	MIDATL	MI
	MT	NEWENG	OHVALLEY	TX
	PACNW	WI	GUAM	FL



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Figure 11: Obs/Analyses page for Skew-t plots

The regions that correspond to the SKEWT type get highlighted in red.
Select a region.

Skew-T Parameter Page

Figure 12 below shows the Skew-t page for region North America (Namer). The page presents the available cycles, with the default being the latest cycle and is displayed in the right most cell highlighted in red.

Select the desired cycle, and the user is presented with the skewt-t plot as shown in Figure 13.

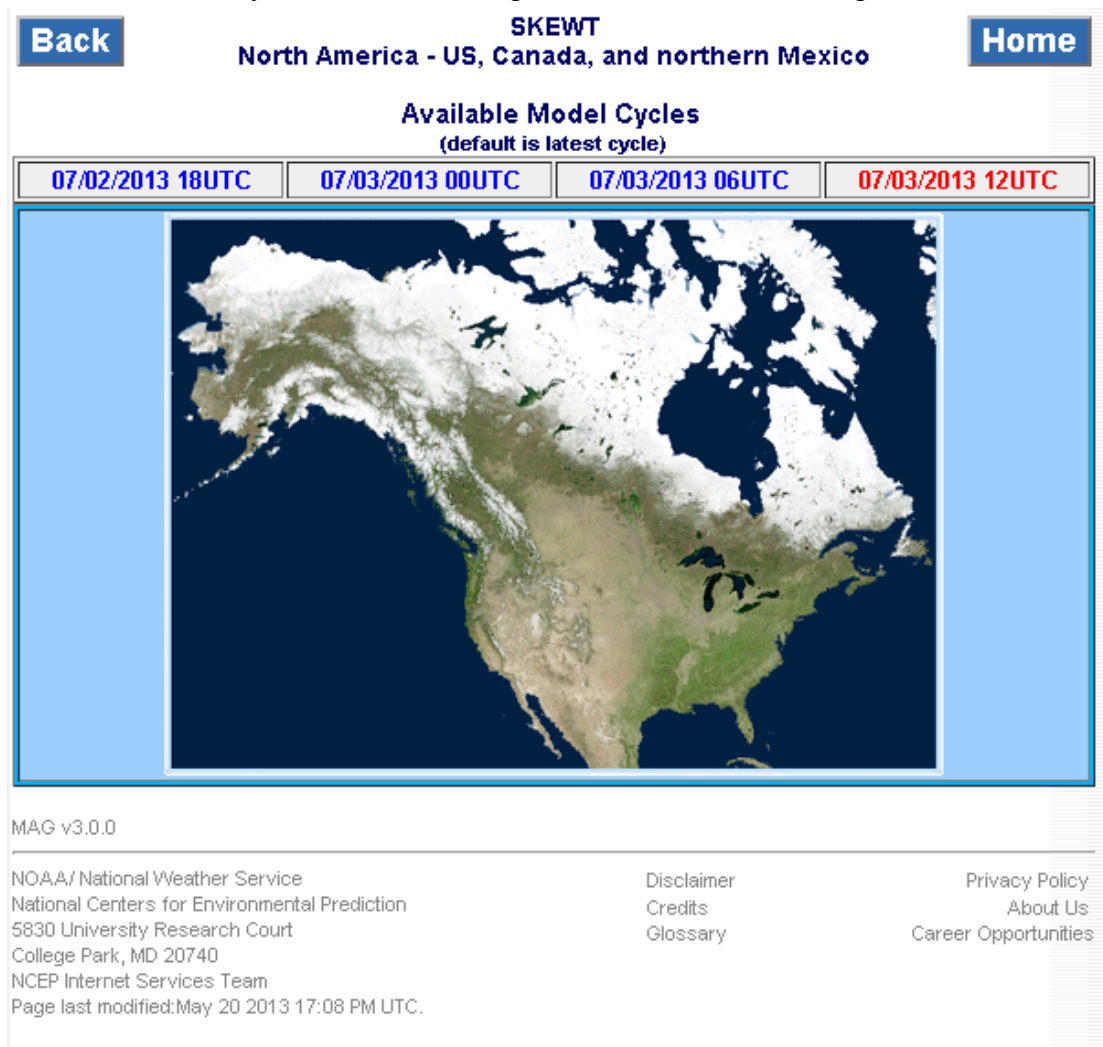


Figure 12: Skew-T page for region “Namer”

[Back](#)

Upper Air Skew-T diagrams
namer 20130703 12 UTC

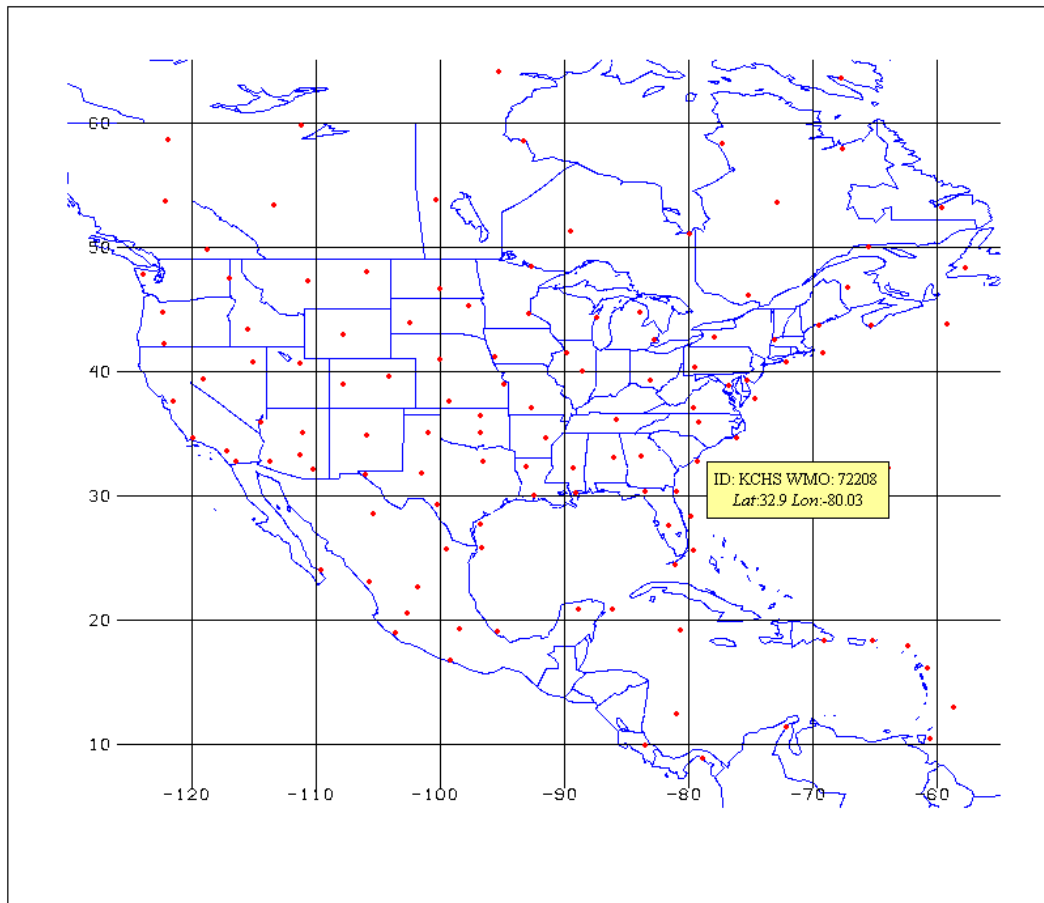
[Home](#)[Display table of stations](#)

Figure 13: Skew-t plot

The user can click on the red dots, which represent various stations, to view the graphic. The user is presented with skew-t graphics as shown in Figure 14.

[Back](#)

Skew-T KCHS 20130703 12UTC

[Home](#)

http://magtest.ncep.noaa.gov/data/skewt/12/skewt_KCHS_skt.gif

[Zoom In](#) | [Normal](#) | [Zoom Out](#)

130703/1200 72208 KCHS LCLP: 997 LIFT: -9999 PWAT: 51

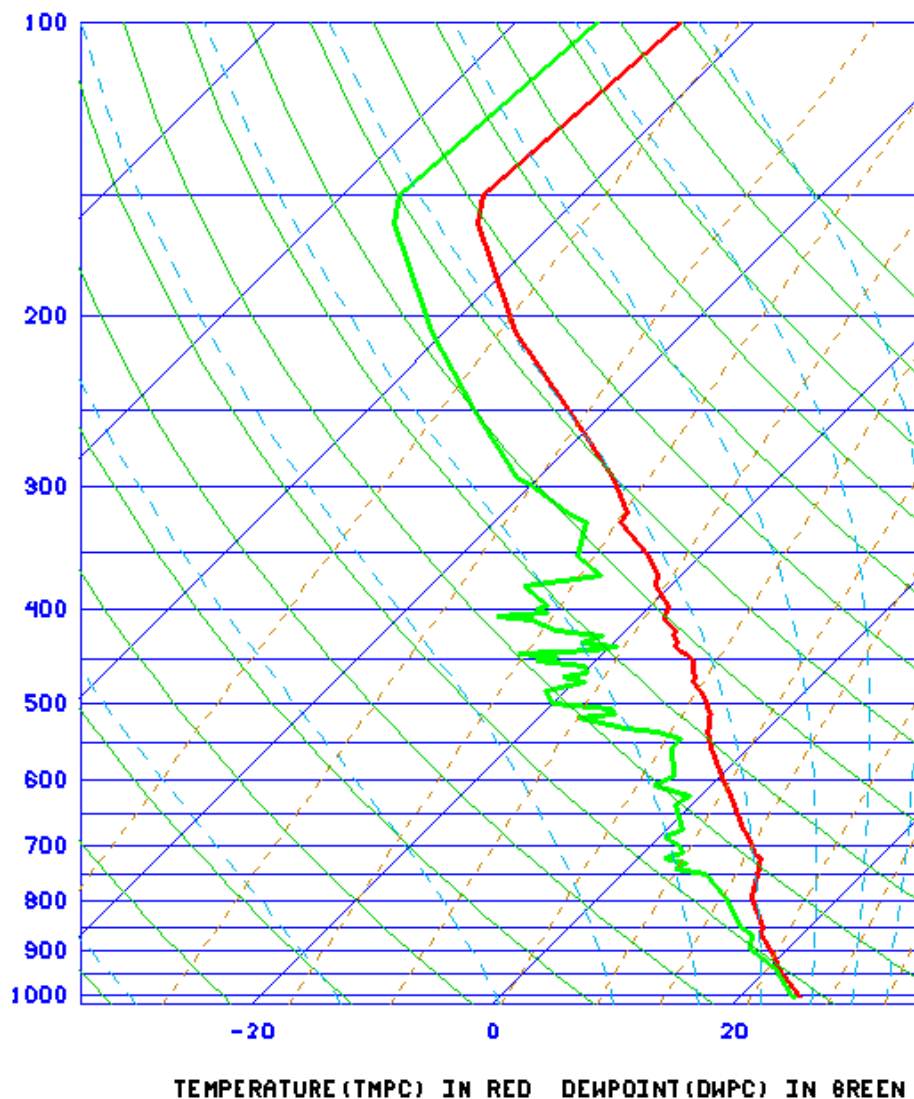


Figure 14: Skew-T graphics

Note: The display of Skew-T graphics available can be listed in a table rather than on a map. When the user chooses a desired cycle, click on the hypertext link “Display Table of Stations” to get a list of stations (as shown in Figure 16) instead of the regional map with red dots representing the various stations.

ID	Latitude	Longitude	Country code	WMO block/station
FAPE	-33.98	26.62	ZA	688420
FACT	-33.97	18.60	ZA	688160
FADY	-30.67	24.00	ZA	685380
FABL	-29.10	26.30	ZA	684420
68312	-26.53	18.12	NM	68312
FAIR	-25.92	28.22	ZA	682630
FMSD	-25.03	46.95	MG	671970
FYWW	-22.57	17.10	NM	681100
FMMI	-18.80	47.48	MG	670830
61901	-15.93	-5.67	HE	61901
FCPP	-4.82	11.90	BC	644000
FOOL	0.47	9.42	GO	645000
FKKD	4.00	9.73	CM	649100
DIAP	5.25	-3.93	IV	655780
HAAB	9.03	38.75	ET	634500
DFFD	12.35	-1.52	HV	655030
DRRN	13.48	2.17	NR	610520
GOTT	13.77	-13.68	SG	616870
GOOY	14.73	-17.50	SG	616410
DRZA	16.97	7.98	NR	610240
GQNN	18.10	-15.95	MT	614420
GQPP	20.93	-17.03	MT	614150
60680	22.78	5.52	AL	60680
HESN	23.97	32.78	EG	624140
62403	26.20	32.75	EG	62403
62423	27.05	27.98	EG	62423
60630	27.23	2.50	AL	60630
DAOE	27.70	-8.17	AL	606560
60018	28.32	-16.38	CR	60018
HEMM	31.33	27.22	EG	623060
DAOR	31.62	-2.23	AL	605710
DTTZ	33.92	8.10	TS	607600
DAAG	36.72	3.25	AL	603900
DTTA	36.83	10.23	TS	607150

Figure 15: Station table for Skew-T graphics

The user can click on the station code to view the skew-T graphic.

Observations and Analysis page for RTMA(Real-time Mesoscale Analysis Model) and RTMA-GUAM


When the user selects the 'RTMA' Obs/Analyses type from the Observations and Analyses page, the corresponding regions available for RTMA get highlighted in white. The remaining regions are de-selected. When the user selects a region of choice, the user is presented with the RTMA page as shown in Figure 16.

RTMA-GUAM is another model type provided specifically for the Guam region. The user interface provided for the Guam region is the same the other regions for the RTMA model.

[Back](#)
Observations and Analyses
[Home](#)

Choose an Obs/Analysis Area or re-select a different Obs/Analysis Type

Obs / Analysis Type	UAIR	SKEWT	RTMA	RTMA-GUAM
Obs / Analysis Area	NAMER	SAMER	AFRICA	NPAC
	CANADA	ALASKA	WHATL	SWREGION
	CA	NC_SC	CO	ND_SD
	MIDWEST	GULFCOAST	MIDATL	MI
	MT	NEWENG	OHVALLEY	TX
	PACHW	WI	GUAM	FL



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Figure 16: Observations and Analyses page for "RTMA"

RTMA/RTMA-GUAM Parameter page

The RTMA page presents the user with the available cycles with the default being latest cycle which is highlighted in red and is displayed in the right most cell as shown in Figure 16. The available Surface Parameter names are displayed above the map. When the user selects one of the parameters, the page is redirected to the graphics page as shown in Figure 17.

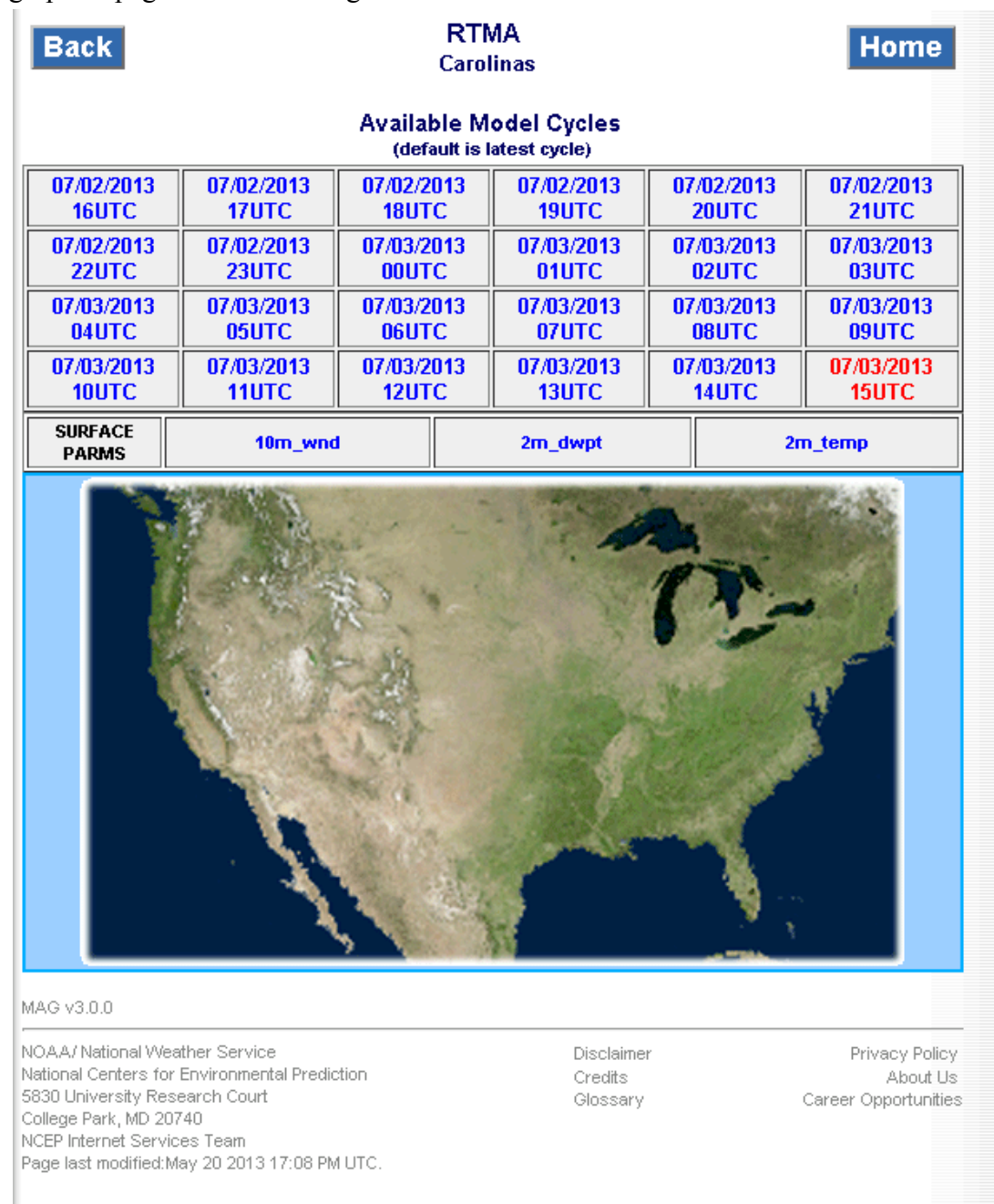


Figure 17: RTMA page

[Back](#)[Obs & Analysis](#)[Home](#)

http://magtest.ncep.noaa.gov/data/rtna/15/rtna_rc_sc_000_10m_wnc.gif

[Zoom In](#) | [Normal](#) | [Zoom Out](#)

130703/1500 RTMA CAROLINAS 10-METER WIND SPEED (KNOTS) / DIRECTION

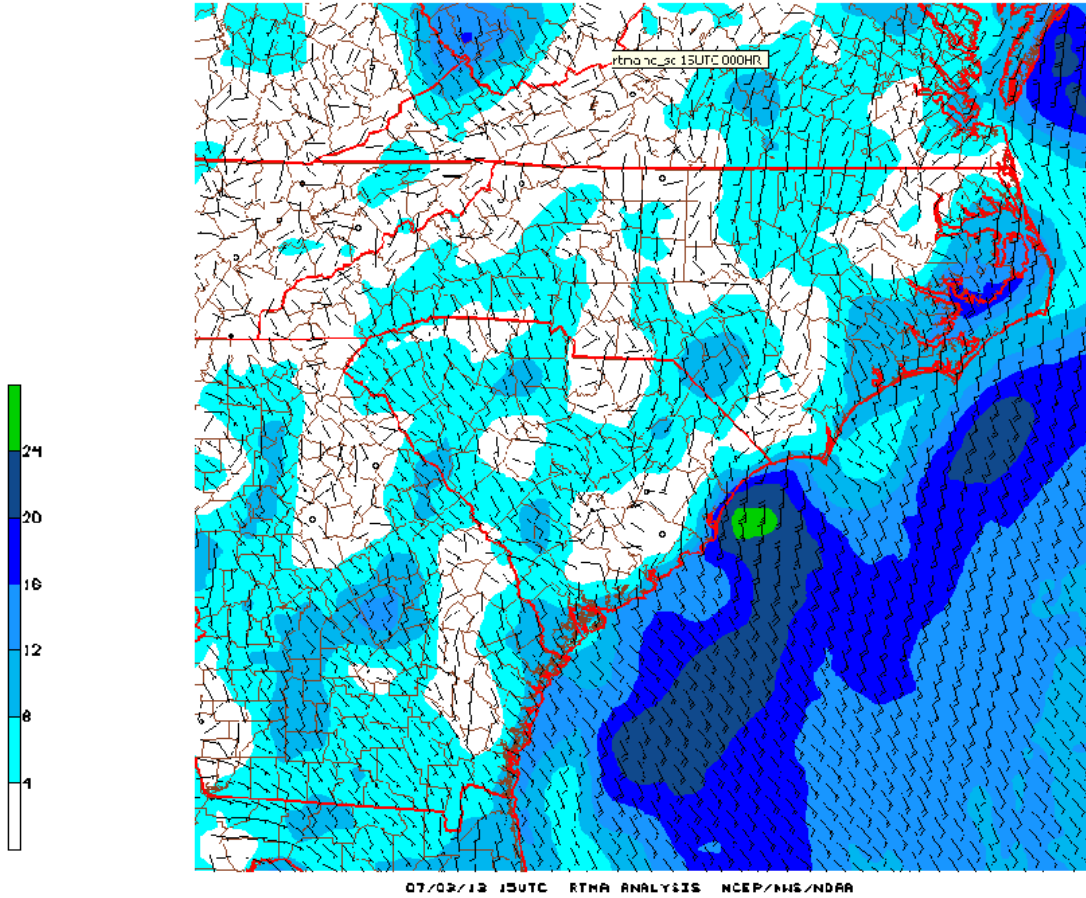


Figure 18: RTMA graphics

The user can zoom-in/zoom-out or choose a Normal size of viewing the image by pointing to the “Zoom In | Normal | Zoom Out “ links provided just above the image.

The static URL to view the image is provided just below the title of the page.

Tropical Guidance Page

The Tropical Guidance Page displays the available Model type and the Storm name as shown in Figure 19. When the user selects a model the corresponding storm name is highlighted in white.

After the users select the desired storm name, then they are directed to the Tropical Guidance parameter page as shown in Figure20.

[Back](#)

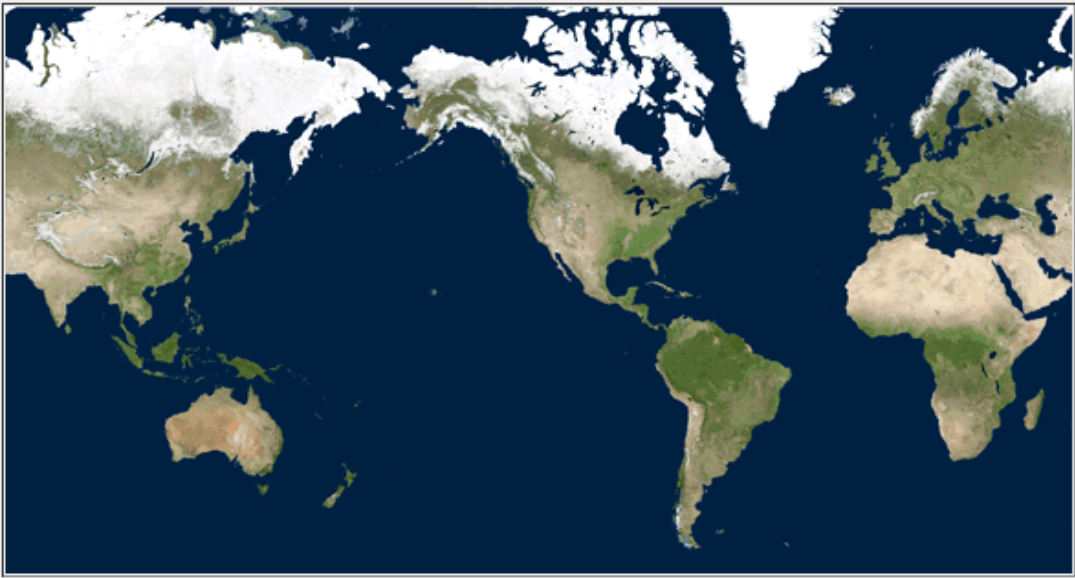
Tropical Guidance

[Home](#)

[Reset Selection](#)

To view images, select a Model Type and Model Storm

Model Type	GHM-FULL	GHM-NESTED	HWRF-FULL	HWRF-NESTED
Model Storm	dalila04e			



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Figure 19: Tropical Guidance page.

Tropical Guidance Parameter page:

This page presents the user with

- The parameter names available for a selected Model and Storm name.
- The available model cycles. Note: the cycles are displayed with the latest cycle as the default and is displayed on the right most cell and is highlighted in red

- The available forecast hours are displayed once the parameter is selected (see Figure 22).

Back

GHM-FULL
 dalila04e

Home

Available Model Cycles
 (default is latest cycle)

20130702 06 UTC

20130702 12 UTC

20130702 18 UTC

20130703 00 UTC

SFC-LAYER PARAMS	mslp_10wnd					
UPPER AIR PARAMS	200_vort_ht	500_rh_omega	500_vort_ht	700_vort_ht	850_temp_precip	850vor_500ht_200wd
	850_vort_ht					

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Figure 20: Tropical Guidance Parameter page

To view the graphics for any parameter:

- Select the
 - Model cycle
 - Forecast hour (default is always ‘loop all’).
 - Parameter name

User selection is highlighted in white.

- Once all the above three selections have been made the page automatically redirects to the graphics display page. If the forecast hour is ‘Loop All’ or “1/2/3/4/5 Day loop”, then the user is presented with a JavaScript page that loops through all the images for all forecast hours as shown in Figure 22. If a distinct forecast hour is chosen from the drop down list, the user is shown a gif image.

[Back](#)GHM-FULL
dalila04e[Home](#)Available Model Cycles
(default is latest cycle)[20130702 06 UTC](#)[20130702 12 UTC](#)[20130702 18 UTC](#)[20130703 00 UTC](#)

SFC- LAYER PARAMS	mslp_10wnd					
UPPER AIR PARAMS	200_vort_ht	500_rh_omega	500_vort_ht	700_vort_ht	850_temp_precip	850vor_500ht_200wd
	850_vort_ht					

FORECAST HOURS	000				Loop All
	006	012	018	024	1 Day
	030	036	042	048	2 Day
	054	060	066	072	3 Day
	078	084	090	096	4 Day
	102	108	114	120	5 Day
	126				

(available forecast hours will have active links)

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Figure 21: Tropical Guidance Parameter page with available forecast hours and loop options

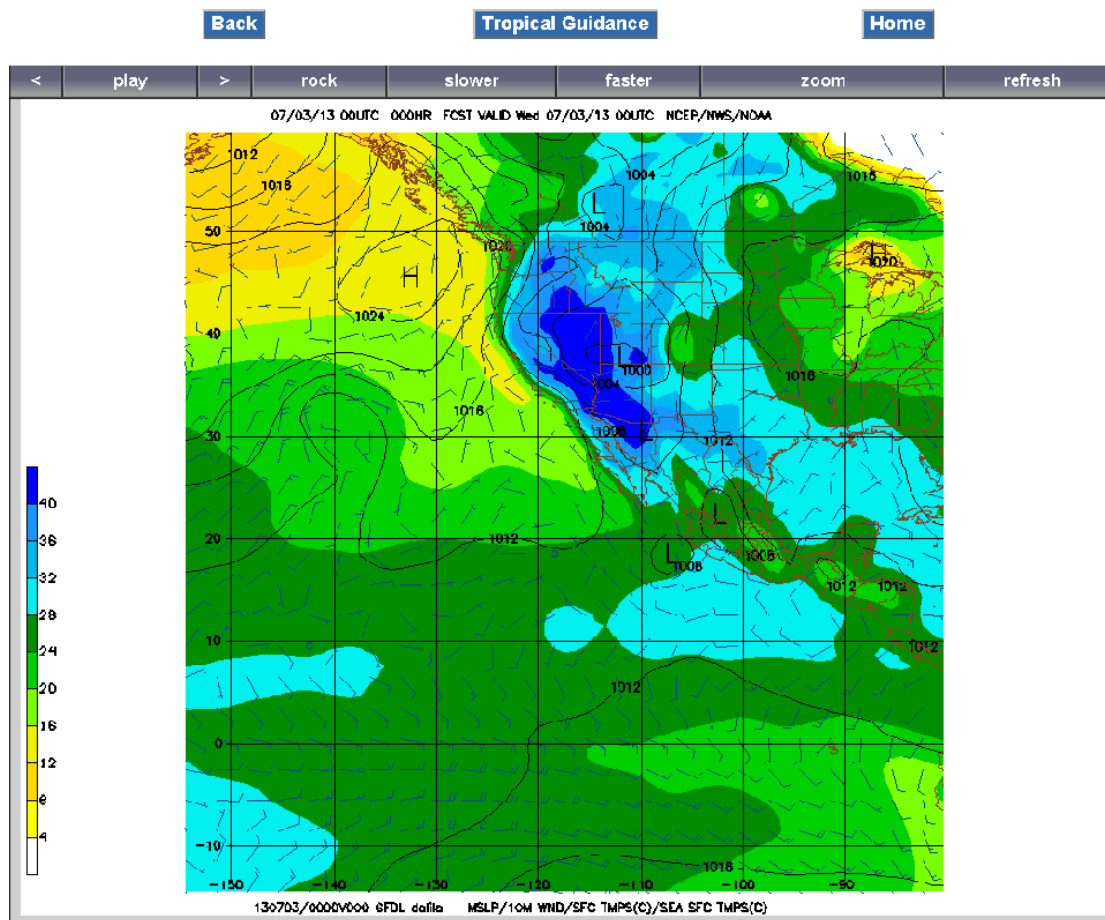


Figure 22: JavaScript animation page for Tropical Guidance parameter

When there are no active storms a page will be displayed notifying the user that no storms are available at this time.